

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 5. No new matter is added.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, enablement

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5 for alleged lack of enablement. Applicants have amended the claims to address the rejections. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot.

In claim 1, the term "HuR" is modified by the recitation of the SEQ ID NOs (SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4). Support for the term is found in the specification at page 4, lines 26-28. The claim as amended corresponds in scope to the protein as shown to be produced in Example 2 (see specification, page 12) and shown to be effective in Example 5 (see specification, page 18). See further, the specification, page 5, lines 26-33, as reproduced in the Office Action of October 27, 2007, page 7.

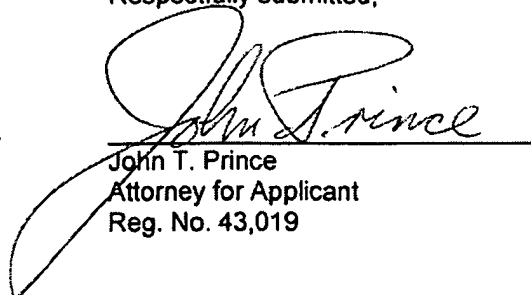
35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5 for alleged indefiniteness. The examiner has also made some suggestions for overcoming the rejections. Applicants thank the examiner and make the following amendments to the claims:

- In claim 1, the term "method for modifying an agent that has an inhibitory effect" is replaced by the conventional term "method for identifying an inhibitor".
- In claim 1, the term "HuR" is modified by addition of the term "Hu-antigen R".
Support for the term is found in the specification at page 2, line 5.
- In claim 1, the term "a candidate compound" is replaced by the term "a candidate inhibitor". Antecedent basis for the term "inhibitor" is found in the previous recitation in the preamble of the claim as amended.
- In claim 1(f), the step has been amended for clarity.
- In claim 1(f), the step has been amended for clarity. The term "and/or" has been replaced, as suggested.
- In claim 1(g), the step has been amended, as suggested, to recite that the candidate inhibitor inhibits complex formation between the ARE-containing mRNA and the HuR protein.
- In claim 5, the term "detection method" is amended to recite that the "candidate inhibitor is identified by use of a fluorescence spectroscopic method", so that there is antecedent basis in the claim.
- Claims 2-4 now depend on the pending claim 1.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John T. Prince", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc.
400 Technology Square
Cambridge, MA 02139

(617) 871-3346

Date: January 10, 2008

John T. Prince
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 43,019